

PEOPLE'S WORLD

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October 8, 2010

Oct. 2 'One Nation' rally calls for jobs

By Jarvis Tyner



An estimated 170,000 protesters rallied at the Lincoln Memorial Oct. 2 to cheer calls for jobs, union rights and a massive vote against corporate greed and hate in the Nov. 2 midterm elections.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka touched off a roaring ovation as he told the vast multi-racial crowd, "You look like one beautiful nation. There is nothing we can't do when we stand side by side, shoulder to shoulder."

He debunked the image of a "nation full of hate" projected by Fox News, the Tea Partiers and Glenn Beck who staged a virtually all-white hate rally here August 28.

In striking contrast, the crowd at the One Nation Working Together rally was a rainbow of black, brown, and white. Tens of thousands of Black, Latino and white union members wore their brightly colored T shirts, jackets and caps and held up a sea of placards proclaiming, "Hope not Hate" "Healthcare not Warfare" and "Money for Jobs, Not tax Giveaways for the Rich. One woman held a placard with the image of President Obama and the message, "Respect My President."

The NAACP also brought tens of thousands of its members wearing goldenrod yellow T shirts on a vast flotilla of chartered buses from cities and towns across the nation.

Trumka said One Nation Working Together stands against the "greed, the monied powers that put us in the economic mess we are in." Workers, he said are demanding good jobs and the right to organize a union, with wages high enough to support a family, send children to college, and retire in dignity.

NAACP President and CEO Ben Jealous alluded to the long decades of struggle symbolized

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by the Lincoln Memorial. "We've come too far to turn back now," he said.

"We've got to go home and ask our friends and ask our neighbors to vote. Get up off the couch and get out and vote November 2."

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the

The crowd at the One Nation Working Together rally was a rainbow of black, brown, and white.

Children's Defense Fund, blasted elected officials who want to dole out "massive tax giveaways to the rich when fifty percent of our children are living in poverty." Lessons can be learned from the Biblical story of Noah's Ark, she said: "Don't miss the boat" and "We're all in the same boat" and "Noah's Ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals."

Actor-singer Harry Belafonte remembered Dr. King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial as well as his 1967 Riverside Church speech in New York City against the Vietnam war. He pointed out that Al Qaeda has as few as 50 members. "Do we really believe that sending 100,000 troops to kill innocent men and women in Afghanistan and Pakistan makes any sense?" he asked. Bring the troops home and use the trillions of tax dollars to rebuild schools, hospitals and affordable housing, he said.

Lincoln abolished slavery, Belafonte added, "but the crippling poison of racism still persists." He warned of the "undermining of the Constitution and the systematic attack on our most in-

alienable rights" adding, "At the heart of this danger is the Tea Party which is coming close to achieving its villainous ends. On November 2, in the millions, we must overburden our voting booths" voting to defeat those who seek to "impose a totalitarian state," on the nation.

Ellie Flores, a 22 year-old from Los Angeles, warmed the crowd up with: "Where are my young people: where are the young in spirit?" He went on to call for greater government investment in people. "Our government needs to invest in its people again. If I am eating but my brother is star, then I am starving too," he said. "An injustice somewhere is an injustice everywhere."

"I'm here to fight for jobs" said Shirley Jones as the rally drew to close. A UAW member, Jones, came to the rally from Coop City in the Bronx, N.Y.

Sam Webb, CPUSA national chair, said, "There's never been anything quite like this march. The great thing is that it happened, who was there, who spoke, the spirit and politics."



Tim Wheeler writes for the People's World.

Racism: Its winners and losers

By PW Editorial Board

Two years into the Obama presidency it is fair to say that racist ideology is the main mobilizing discourse of right-wing extremism.

Two years into the Obama presidency it is fair to say that racist ideology is the main mobilizing discourse of right-wing extremism. In subtle and crude forms, it has become the main poison to draw white people into the theater of politics on the side of the most reactionary sections of corporate capital.

If it were only a few angry white men, sitting in a coffee shop, who took this stuff seriously, it wouldn't matter much.

But that's not the reality. Racist garbage about the president, including his citizenship and religion, is resonating with a much larger audience, cutting across class, income, religious and regional lines. It strikes a chord among some wealthy and middle-class people, but it penetrates into white working class neighborhoods - urban, suburban and small town - too.

To ignore or minimize the impact of this racist offensive is exceedingly dangerous. Nor should we think that a vigorous response to it is a diversion from "more pressing" economic issues.

If left unchallenged, this ramped up and re-vamped racist counteroffensive could throw the country back to days long thought gone by or into a future that we long thought could "never happen here."

To sit on one's hands and make pithy critiques of the administration while the president is the target of racist discourse that we thought was forever buried away in our historical memory gives license to the worst racists as well as opens the door for the extreme right's return to political power.

In earlier periods when racism gained ascendancy over anti-racism, the only real winner, regardless of what some historians of "white privilege" claim, was the white ruling classes, slavery-based and capitalist, and their closest allies.

Racism strikes people of color the hardest. But at the end of the day working people of all colors are scarred. It is an ideology and practice that denies equality to people of color, heightens exploitation of all who labor, and destroys real democracy.

A chilling contrast in Michigan's 9th CD

By John Rummel

With the first debate over between incumbent Democrat Gary Peters and his Republican and tea party backed challenger Andrew (Rocky) Raczkowski, voters have real reason for concern if Raczkowski were to be elected congressman in Michigan's 9th district.

During the debate Raczkowski continually professed he'd only be beholden to his Oakland County constituents. His words painted a far different picture.

Raczkowski attempted to demonize health care reform by saying it was "socialized medicine and the takeover of the entire practice of medicine." He blamed health care reform, not the insurance companies, for the increase in premiums many insurance companies enacted before the reform took effect.

Peters pointed to "some incredibly important aspects" of the bill including the provision that allows children under 26 to continue on their parents' policy.

He said because of a sliding scale based on income, "Middle income folks, who are just struggling, pay their bills everyday and can't afford it, now they will be able to have health care. Reform will bring peace of mind to many. We can't repeal health care: we have to keep it in place."

Peters pounded on Raczkowski's support for a 23 percent national sales tax. While Raczkowski tried to deny the charge, he has been endorsed by the Michigan Fair Tax Association because of his support for HR 25, the misnamed Fair Tax Act. This bill would eliminate the IRS (and taxes on CEOs and corporations) and put a 23 percent sales tax in its place.

Peters said it's anything but fair. "How many folks out there would like to pay 23 percent more for everything you buy? A gallon of gasoline? A gallon of milk? A house - 23 percent more, a car -



23 percent more."

Asked if the more than 14,000 men and women discharged for having a sexual persuasion different from the majority means "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" should be abolished, Raczkowski replied "absolutely not."

A far different answer came from Peters: "I am very proud to say I support the repeal."

While Peters touted his work on the Wall Street reform bill, Raczkowski has been quoted in local papers saying he was against Wall Street reform and was concerned the bill would "over regulate" the banking industry.

In addition, he wants individuals to open private Wall Street accounts for their Social Security savings. Luckily for seniors, this was not in place during the recent stock market crash.

To a question on the handling of Iran Raczkowski replied, "War is the last option but all options must be on the table." One got the distinct sense this candidate finger is quick on the trigger.

During his summary, Raczkowski repeated his mantra of opposition to health care reform, the stimulus package and cap and trade.

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Workers shut down biggest East Coast port

By Dan Margolis

Longshore workers were proud of solidarity actions they took - which shut down the East Coast's biggest port - by refusing to cross the picket lines their brother and sister workers from Philadelphia set up. They were protesting plans by fruit-giant Del Monte to move their Philadelphia shipping operations to a non-union pier.

About 3,500 workers stayed off the job. The stoppage marks the first time the Port of New York and New Jersey has been shuttered by a labor dispute since the mid-1970s.

Bananas and pineapples had been unloaded for Del Monte by ILA workers. However, the corporation unilaterally decided to move the unpacking operations at Pier 5, in Camden, N.J., to the Holt pier in Gloucester, N.J. According to the ILA, this move could cost workers there, members of Local 1291, upwards of 200 jobs.

While Del Monte argued that Holt's pier was better equipped, the real reason for the move is simple: the company does not want to deal with the union or contracts.

On July 22, Del Monte demanded, according to the ILA, "that the ILA reduce labor costs by \$5 million and imposed an unreasonable four-day deadline on the ILA to meet its demands." Though the workers had not received pay increases in a whopping 19 years, the hard-pressed union agreed to a 25 percent reduction and other givebacks.

While the strikers have returned to work, many feel that they have "served notice" to Del Monte that unilateral actions will not be tolerated.

Un conato de cuartelazo en Ecuador

Por Jesús Alvarado

Los tentáculos de la derecha fascista latinoamericana acaban de ejecutar dos atentados macabros, bajo la mirada sonriente del imperialismo norteamericano.

El análisis de cada caso reviste de una importancia excepcional. El primero, el atropello a la Senadora Piedad Córdova porque la oligarquía colombiana y el imperialismo norteamericano no quieren reconocer que la solución del caso colombiano requiere de una negociación política.

Después de 60 años de conflicto, de miles de muertos, millones de desplazados, la oligarquía colombiana todavía cree que los pobres de Colombia tienen que olvidarse de reclamar un pedazo de tierra para cultivar, un cuarto de habitación donde morar, o un trabajo donde laborar para llevar un pan para sus hijos. Los pobres de Colombia no aceptan el cuento de tener que vivir de las migajas que caen de la mesa de los adinerados de Colombia.

El reclamo por reforma agraria se hizo hace sesenta años, ahora es más acuciante esta demanda porque la población del país se ha duplicado y por consiguiente las necesidades de la población, que no se reducen solo a tierra, alojamiento, trabajo, sino educación gratuita a todos los niveles, salud y beneficios sociales para millones de seres humanos. Y esto solo se puede conseguir en una mesa de negociación. Caso contrario, la concien-

cia latinoamericana debe erigirse en árbitro para poner fin a este desangre.

El segundo, el atropello al Presidente Correa.

Este Presidente ha puesto la casa ecuatoriana en orden: los recursos del país no pueden estar en manos extranjeras, comenzando por eliminar la base militar norteamericana de Manta porque violaba la soberanía nacional. Esto naturalmente enfureció al imperialismo norteamericano. Y aunque los yanquis esta vez no fueron tan descarados como cuando apoyaron el golpe de estado en Honduras, si les hubiera complacido ver derrocado a un colaborador cercano de sus enemigos: Chávez, Morales, Ortega y Castro.

El rescate espectacular que el grupo militar hiciera del Presidente Correa en manos de sus secuestradores, y el saludo multitudinario del pueblo a su retorno al Palacio presidencial, es el reconocimiento del pueblo ecuatoriano al líder que le devolvió su dignidad a través de una nueva Constitución donde se plasman sus derechos inviolables, al economista que le diseñó la guía para elaborar contratos petroleros favorables y compromisos de pago de deuda externa beneficiosos, fuera de su incesante tarea de mejorar los sistemas de salud, educación, impuestos, construcción de infraestructura, capacidad eléctrica e inversión extranjera.

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